

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 NEA-14 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-20 HEW-08 AID-20 DODE-00 L-03

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R 141040Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4083

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3683

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR TU EG

SUBJ: POSSIBILITY OF EGYPTIAN SUPPORT FOR MAINTAINING
TURKISH OPIUM BAN

1. WOULD APPRECIATE THOUGHTS OF EMBASSY CAIRO ON WHETHER
EGYPT, WHICH HAS CONTINUING PROBLEM WITH SMUGGLED TURKISH
OPIUM, MIGHT BE WILLING TO JOIN US IN SEEKING TO PERSUADE TURKEY
TO MAINTAIN 1971 BAN ON GROWING OPIUM POPPY.

2. FOR YOUR BACKGROUND:

A. TURKEY IS NOW CONSIDERING RESUMING OPIUM POPPY
CULTIVATION "UNDER STRICT CONTROLS". HOWEVER, CONSENSUS OF
EXPERT OPINION IS THAT CONTROLS WOULD BE INEFFECTIVE AND THAT
ILLCIT TURKISH NARCOTICS WOULD AGAIN FLOW INTO WORLD MARKET.

B. HIGHEST LEVELS OF USG ARE CONCERNED WITH PRESERVING
POPPY BAN, WHICH HAS PROVEN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO REDUCING
HEROIN AVAILABILITY IN US. WE HAVE CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT IF
TURKEY RESCINDS BAN, CONGRESS WILL DEMAND THAT US MILITARY
AND ECONOMIC AID TO TURKEY BE ENDED WITH UNDERSTANDABLY
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DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS ON OUR RELATIONS. WE ARE THEREFORE TAKING

EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO IMPRESS TURKISH GOVERNMENT WITH OUT
STRONG OPPOSITION TO RECISION OF BAN.

C. HOWEVER, OTHER GOVERNMENTS WITH HISTORY OF
DOMESTIC DEMAND FOR TURKISH-GROWN NARCOTICS HAVE LET
US CARRY MAIN BURDEN OF STRUGGLE WITH RESULT THAT EFFORT TO
STOP TURKEY FROM RETURNING TO OPIUM PRODUCTION CAN BE
PRESENTED BY GOT AS BILATERAL DISPUTE IN WHICH TURKEY
IS DEFENDING ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF DECISION AGAINST US
EFFORT AT DOMINATION. WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS GENERALLY
FVE TENDED ASSUME DECISION TO LIFT BAN IS AS GOOD AS MADE
AND NOTHING IS TO BE GAINED BY OPPOSING IT. FACT IS THAT DECISION
HAS NOT BEEN MADE AND THERE IS STILL A CHANCE TO HEAD IT OFF.
WE ARE SEEKING MOBILIZE NATO COUNTRIES AND FRG AND UK
HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED OPPOSITION.

2. AS SEEN FROM HERE, EGYPT WOULD HAVE STRONG CASE TO MAKE
AS "VICTIM COUNTRY". ITS INTERVENTION WOULD BE FIRST BY A THIRD
WORLD COUNTRY AND WE HOPE IT WOULD RECOGNIZE INTEREST IN
OPPOSING REVISION 1971 BAN.
MACOMBER

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